

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 1, 2010.

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 13, 18, 19 and 35 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, Claim 11 has been amended to correct a formal matter not affecting the scope of the claims. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from U.S. Patent 4,428,078 to Kuo in view of U.S. Patent 6,459,363 to Walker et al. Claims 19-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from Kuo and Walker and further in view of U.S. Patent Application U.S. 20030232181 to Simpson et al. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claims 1, 13, 18, 19 and 35 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a communication system comprising a communication path capable of conveying communication signals, a communication device adapted to receive or generate VHF or UHF communication signals, and a near field antenna associated with the communication device, the near field antenna being provided sufficiently near to the communication path to couple VHF or UHF communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path.

Kuo, as understood by Applicant, relates to a wireless audio passenger entertainment system (WAPES). A transmitter 23 is arranged at one end of each of aisle passageways 51 and coupled by a coupling network 22 to transmission line 26, as shown in Figs. 1, 5 (see also col. 2, lines 40 – 47.) A pick-up loop 30 is mounted directly above and closely adjacent to conductor 29 of transmission line 26 for electromagnetically coupling the signals on transmission line 26 to a seat group of receivers. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Kuo

does not teach that the communication path is also receiving the communication signal from the communication device.

Walker et al. was cited as allegedly disclosing bi-directional communication modules. As understood by Applicant, Walker et al. relates to a two wire communication system. As understood by Applicant, A controller 50 is linked to one end of a two wire communication line 51 and at the other end, to an end of line module 52. Modules 53-57 are connected to line 51 in parallel (col. 9, lines 4 – 17.)

Initially, Applicant points out that Walker et al. is concerned with a system where each of the modules and the controller are connected to the communication line 51. A person of ordinary skill in the art looking for a solution to problems associated with near field antenna coupling systems as disclosed by Kuo would hardly be motivated to look to Walker et al. which provides a physical coupling to the communication line.

Furthermore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have any reason for combining Kuo with Walker et al. Kuo is concerned with providing power and r.f. signals from a source to seats in an aircraft. Kuo is not concerned with providing information from a seat to any other location. Accordingly, there would be no rational reason for modifying Kuo's system to provide an ability of communicating from a seat to any other location.

Accordingly, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a near field antenna associated with the communication device for coupling communication signals to or from the communication device to the communication path, as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants submits independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 13, 18, 19 and 35 are believed to be patentable over the cited art, for at least similar reasons.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in

connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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